



Survivor Reentry Project

The Issue:

Human trafficking survivors are often left with criminal records as a result of being forced to engage in illegal activity, impacting their ability to obtain employment, housing, education, benefits, financial assistance, immigration relief, and family stability. Survivors are routinely burdened with numerous records in multiple jurisdictions, requiring a comprehensive national approach. FNUSA's Survivor Reentry Project (SRP) helps survivors clear their criminal records by providing training and technical assistance to practitioners and connecting survivors with a network of trained attorneys for representation.

The Need:

Representation in Criminal Record Relief- Survivors are referred to pro bono attorneys for representation in each jurisdiction. The attorneys are provided with the intake, fingerprint records, and legal analysis already completed. Pro bono attorneys must prepare and file appropriate motions/petitions for all eligible records in their jurisdiction. They may need to collaborate with attorneys working with the survivor on records from another jurisdiction. **The need is especially acute for lawyers that can practice in AL, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, HI, IL, LA, MO, MS, NM, NV, OR, TN, TX, and WA.**

Requirements to Participate: To participate as a pro bono attorney with the Survivor Reentry Project, an attorney must (1) have an active license in the jurisdiction where a survivor has eligible criminal records, (2) attend SRP-provided trainings on the vacatur process and trauma-informed legal practices, and (3) maintain regular contact with SRP and the SRP Client during the case.

Frequently Asked Questions:

What is the time commitment for this type of case?

A vacatur petition (or expungement depending on the jurisdiction) can span six months to two years from intake with SRP to the filing. Realistically, if you regularly communicate with the survivor and dedicate consistent hours to preparing the petition, the timeline can be towards the shorter end of that window.

Will I be provided with resources to prepare this case?

Absolutely. SRP has regular trainings to ensure all participating attorneys are equipped to competently and thoughtfully represent survivors. SRP offers technical assistance throughout the life of the case, including templates and local resources as needed. Sample motions and petitions are available for some jurisdictions. Technical assistance and support will be provided, and referrals to local expert practitioners will be provided when possible.

Will I have to appear in court?

It is a possibility. Some jurisdictions require a hearing for vacatur, but it is always possible to motion the court to waive a hearing.

Contact Information

If you have questions or want to learn more about SRP, please contact Miranda Nehrig, the coordinating senior staff attorney, by email at miranda@freedomnetworkusa.org or by phone at 571-534-3959.

www.freedomnetworkusa.org

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